GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2121
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
VISIT OF RUSSIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
ANANTRAO GUDHE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Russian delegation led by the Russian Deputy Prime Minister recently visited India to discuss and decide upon trade related bilateral pending issues;

(b) if so, the details of the economic issues discussed and decisions taken thereon; and

(c) the fresh agreements signed and implications thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Dr. Viktor Khristenko, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, paid an official visit to New Delhi on January 14-15, 2000. During Dr. Khristenko`s visit, the 6th Session of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC) was held. Finance Minister and Dr. Khristenko are the Co-Chairmen of the IRIGC.

(b) & (c) A Protocol of the 6th Session of the IRIGC was signed at the conclusion of the meeting by the Co-Chairmen. During the IRIGC meeting, both sides noted that there have been positive trends in the development of trade and economic cooperation between India and the Russian Federation and expressed satisfaction at the upward trend in bilateral trade during the year 1999-2000.They however, acknowledged that the volume of bilateral trade did not correspond to the existing potential and agreed to take appropriate measures towards its further expansion and diversification, through greater representation of non-traditional and hi-tech items. The Commission also noted the overall progress in bilateral cooperation in the fields of science and technology, power and non-conventional energy sources, metallurgy, coal, information technology, environment and natural resources, oil and gas, pharmaceuticals and culture.